



**United  
States  
Steel  
Corporation**

WESTERN ORE OPERATIONS  
P. O. BOX 569  
LANDER, WYOMING 82520-0569

(307) 332-4411

April 18, 1984

**RECEIVED**

**APR 23 1984**

**DIVISION OF OIL  
GAS & MINING**

STATE OF UTAH NATURAL RESOURCES  
Oil, Gas and Mining  
4241 State Office Building  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Mary Boucek

Re: Reclamation of the Desert Mound  
Mine - ACT/021/003 - Iron County,  
Utah

Dear Ms. Boucek:

In reference to the site visitation and discussion between the State and U. S. Steel Corporation personnel on March 15, 1984, and the State's letter dated February 16, 1984, the following is an explanation and answer to that discussion and letter. The comments will follow the State's numbering sequence of the referenced letter.

- 1.1 The loose rocks on the crests of the dumps have been pushed off and the crests rounded to a stable natural configuration. The dump slopes are at the natural angle of repose and show no signs of any movement.
- 1.2 The dumps will be monitored during the next three years.
  - 1.2.1,2,3 - Many of the dumps in that area are 50-60 years old, they all have the same angle of repose, and they have never shown any signs of instability.
- 2.1 U. S. Steel Corporation is hereby requesting a variance to Rule M-10(3) on self-draining impoundments. The last level that was opened in the pit has filled with natural ground water. When the pit was in production, the water was pumped to an overflow ditch, with the State's approval. Now that the pit is no longer in production, the bottom level is being allowed to fill.

*MT. LON PIT*

  - 2.2.1,2,3 - The overflow channel has been completed and was examined on the referenced site visitation. The protecting large boulders are in place and the level will be monitored.

RECEIVED

APR 23 1984

DIVISION OF OIL  
GAS & MINING

Ms. Mary Boucek  
STATE OF UTAH NATURAL RESOURCES  
April 18, 1984  
Page Two

- 3.1,2,3,4,5 Available top soil from U. S. Steel land has been moved and spread across the dump tops. We have not attempted to "borrow" top soil from adjoining landowners. We do not feel the responsibility of reclaiming their lands. Subsequent to the March 15th meeting, it was recommended by the State that in addition to the ammonium nitrate which we had discussed, we also consider additional fertilizing with phosphate. We have agreed to this recommendation.
4. Fencing has been completed.
5. ~~BLACKHAWK FINES~~ This area is being reclaimed at the present time according to the plan.
6. The power lines will be removed. The water well will remain in place for future potential mining operations.
7. The haul road has the potential of being turned over to the County for a maintained road. U. S. Steel Corporation is presently negotiating with the County on this possibility. In the event that the County decides against this action, U. S. Steel Corporation will reclaim the area.
- 8.1,2,3 Agreed. — ~~TO RIP & SCARIFY ALL AREAS RECLAIMED & DRILL SEED (SEE FILE MEMO)~~
- 8.4 The flat areas will be drilled. Our experience is that mulch is not required on the flat areas where the moisture doesn't run off.
- 8.5 Agreed. — ~~VARY SEED MIX ACCORDING TO AREA~~
- 8.6 Seeding will be done this Spring in the Iron Mountain area and in the Fall in the Desert Mound area.
- 8.7,8 Agreed.
- 9,10. The structures will be removed and the reclamation completed by the end of the year.

(11.) — NO ITEM 11.

We have appreciated your cooperation with this difficult task.

Sincerely,

*Laurence Ashdown*  
Laurence Ashdown

LA:jes

cc: R. L. Dahl  
W. R. Benson, Jr.